

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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STADIS/////////
FOR AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES FROM LUERS, ACTING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMARY: MRS. CARTER'S TRIP BEGINS ON MONDAY AND TERRY,
WILL BE TRAVELING WITH HER. THREE MEXICAN CABINET MINISTERS
IN MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AGREED TO FORM BILATERAL WORKING
GROUPS TO ADDRESS COMMON PROBLEMS. THE PRESIDENT SIGNED
THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. WE FARED FAR BETTER IN THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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HOUSE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZA-
TION BILL THAN WE HAD DARED TO HOPE. THERE WILL BE MORE
CONGRESSIONAL VOTES ON CUBA. THE US WILL PARTICIPATE IN
THE HAVANA UNECLA MEETING. PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE
CARIBBEAN MILITARY FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS, AND IN THE
PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. LET'S MAKE TIME TO DO THE BEST
JOB EVER WITH OER'S.

1. MRS. CARTER'S TRIP: THE ADVANCE TEAM REPORTED THAT ITS
TRIP WENT WELL: THERE WAS GOOD WHITE HOUSE-DEPARTMENT

COOPERATION WHILE ON THE ROAD, THE EMBASSIES PROVIDED EXCELLENT SUPPORT AND IDEAS, AND THE HOST GOVERNMENTS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MRS. CARTER'S ARRIVAL. FINAL PREPARATIONS ARE BEING COMPLETED THIS WEEK, AND THE PROSPECTS FOR HER TRIP BEING A SUCCESS ARE QUITE GOOD.

2. TERRY TODMAN'S TRIP: TERRY RETURNED FROM HIS ORIENTATION TRIP TO BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, AND VENEZUELA ON MAY 17. IT WAS VERY WORTHWHILE. HE WAS TOLD IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES THAT HIS TRIP, COMING SO SOON AFTER BEING SWORN IN, COUPLED WITH MRS. CARTER'S IMMINENT TRIP, INDICATED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS SINCERELY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING US-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE DISCUSSED HUMAN RIGHTS AT EACH APPOINTMENT, WAS TOLD BY EACH CHIEF OF STATE THAT HE AGREED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS (HE DID NOT MEET BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT GEISEL), RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA, BUT WAS ADVISED TO INTERNATIONALIZE OUR EFFORTS. OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED TRADE, NUCLEAR ENERGY, DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND US PRISONERS.

3. MEETING WITH THE MEXICANS: MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL AND TWO OTHER CABINET MEMBERS (COMMERCE AND PLANNING AND BUDGET) WERE IN WASHINGTON MAY 26 AND ESTABLISH THEIR BILATERAL WORKING GROUPS TO ADDRESS COMMON PROBLEMS. AGREEMENTS WAS REACHED TO ESTABLISH THREE WORKING GROUPS. CONFIDENTIAL

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-- POLITICAL: ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL.

-- ECONOMIC: OVERALL WORKING GROUP WHICH WILL A;HAVE SUBGROUPS IN TRADE, FINANCE AND ENERGY.

-- SOCIAL: THIS WILL INCLUDE MIGRATION, BORDER CRIME AND ENVIRONMENT AND POSSIBLY DRUG MATTERS.

ALL THREE GROUPS HELD PRELIMINARY MEETINGS. THE SECRETARY AND ROEL DISCUSSED WAYS IN WHICH MEXICO MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO US WITH DEVELOPING PROBLEMS WITH THE CARIBBEAN AND BELIZE. ROEL ALSO IS INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING OUR EFFORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HAS SOME IDEAS ON HOW WE MIGHT WORK TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HE WILL ALSO GIVE US HIS THOUGHTS ON HOW TO REVITALIZE THE OAS. THE MEETING WAS SUCCESSFUL AND DEMONSTRATED OUR SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE.

4. MEXICO: US SIGNING OF TREATY OF TLATELOLCO: PURSUANT TO HIS APRIL 14 OAS SPEECH COMMITMENT, THE PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED PROTOCOL I OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO DURING THE VISIT OF MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL TO WASHINGTON ON MAY 26.

5. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT IN THE HOUSE: THE FULL HOUSE ACTED ON THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION BILL ON MAY 23 AND 24, PASSING A VERSION THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE IN ALMOST EVERY RESPECT, FAR EXCEEDING OUR FONDEST HOPES. IN THE PROCESS, CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI AND COLLEAGUES SUCCESSFULLY BEAT BACK A NUMBER OF TROUBLESOME PROPOSALS, INCLUDING ELIMINATION OF ALL ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA, AND A HARKIN AMENDMENT TO CUT 5 PERCENT OF THE ENTIRE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) PROGRAM. ZABLOCKI MANAGED THE BILL WELL, BUT THE REAL STAR IN DEFENDING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST WAS REPUBLICAN ED DERWINSKI WHO MADE THE DECISIVE INTERVENTIONS ON ARGENTINA AND ZAIRE WITH STRONG SPEECHES SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S FLEXIBILITY ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. HE CHIDED DEMOCRATS ON THE ONE HAND FOR LUKEWARM SUPPORT FOR THEIR PRESIDENT AND HARANGUED REPUBLICANS ON THE OTHER FOR SLIPPING BACK INTO ISOLATIONISM. THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE UNDER CONGRESSMAN LONG ALSO COMPLETED WORK ON ITS MARKUP. ONCE AGAIN, THE OUTCOME WAS CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN WE HAD DARED TO HOPE. THE SUBCOMMITTEE: (A.) REPLICATED THE CUT OF FMS CREDITS TO ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA MADE BY THE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE; (B) REJECTED CUTS OF IMET TO ARGENTINA (BY A VOTE OF 8 TO 5).

6. CONGRESSIONAL VOTES ON CUBA: THE MCGOVERN AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD LIFT THE TRADE EMBARGO FOR SHIPMENTS OF FOOD AND MEDICINE TO CUBA FACES FURTHER DEBATE ON THE SENATE FLOOR. IF A VOTE WERE TAKEN NOW, WITH THE ADMINISTRATION REMAINING NEUTRAL, IT WOULD BE ABOUT 50-50 IN THE SENATE, WITH A GOOD CHANCE OF DEFEAT IN THE HOUSE. ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT WOULD PROBABLY PRODUCE A FAVORABLE VOTE IN THE SENATE, AND A SOMEWHAT NARROWER MAJORITY IN FAVOR IN THE HOUSE. THE ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER, IS STILL NEUTRAL ON THE MCGOVERN AMENDMENT.

7. US PARTICIPATION IN HAVANA UNECLA MEETING: THE US WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA MEETING OF EXPERTS AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL SCHEDULED FOR HAVANA JUNE 13-18. THE MEETING WILL CONSIDER THE DRAFT REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES. ONE OF OUR INTERESTS WILL BE TO ENSURE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE PLAN THAT WILL EMERGE AND THE ONE ALREADY IN OPERATION THAT WAS APPROVED BY THE OAS AT ITS 18TH ASSEMBLY LAST SUMMER. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THEIR HOST COUNTRY CONCERNING THE NAMES AND TITLES OF DELEGATES TO THE HAVANA CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING, IF ANY ARE TO BE SENT. SLUG YOUR CABLE FOR IO.

8. PROGRESS IN CARIBBEAN MILITARY FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS;
(A) ANTIGUA - PARTIAL AGREEMENT: THE US NEGOTIATING TEAM
AND ANTIGUAN PREMIER BYRD SIGNED A PARTIAL AGREEMENT MAY 16
FOR CONTINUED USE OF US MILITARY FACILITIES IN ANTIGUA.
THE ANTIGUANS ARE COMING TO WASHINGTON THIS SUMMER TO
DISCUSS THE ONE OUTSTANDING ISSUE -- COMPENSATION (I.E.,
RENT). (B) BARBADOS - NO AGREEMENT: NO AGREEMENT WAS
REACHED WITH THE BARBADIANS, WHO WANT TO EXTRACT
SUBSTANTIAL RETROACTIVE RENT (WHICH WE CANNOT PROVIDE)
BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO CONTINUED US PRESENCE AFTER
1977. US AND BARBADIAN IDEAS OF APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION
ARE STILL VERY FAR APART.

9. PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: THE NEGOTIATORS CONTINUE
TO MAKE PROGRESS.

10. OER'S: I ASK THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS OF
PRODUCING OER'S MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO DO A BETTER JOB
THIS YEAR THAN THEY EVER HAD BEFORE. PLEASE MAKE TIME TO
DISCUSS OER'S WITH SUBORDINATE IN DRAFT - NOT FINAL. BE
HONEST, BE FAIR, AND BE ON TIME. YOU OWE IT TO YOUR
COLLEAGUES. VANCE

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